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Westfield River Greenway Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Prepared by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and
the Westfield River Watershed Association, 1986

TIMOTHY W. BRENNAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION
26 CENTRAL STREET, WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01089 (413)781-6045

Dear Interested Citizen:

I have enclosed, for your review, a copy of the Executive Summary of the Westfield River Greenway Plan. The plan has been developed over the past year by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and the Westfield River Advisory Committee (WRAC). The WRAC is comprised of members from each of the ten participating communities, several area businesses, the Westfield River Watershed Association and a conservation/fishing organization. The Executive Summary outlines the findings and recommendations of the Westfield River Greenway Plan.

The goal of the Greenway Plan is the protection of the Westfield River's unique attributes. The Executive Summary describes the most effective ways to:

protect natural resources
improve recreational use and access
assess land use practices and controls
protect cultural resources

Community by community management recommendations are included as well as a list of five top action priorities for river protection. These recommendations are based upon public participation in the planning process.

During the next year, we will be working to put the Westfield River Greenway Plan into action. This effort will require the cooperative, coordinated efforts of individuals as well as organizations. The executive summary describes the many areas where agency/community/resident efforts can have positive impact.

I urge you to carefully review this summary. The Westfield River is undoubtedly one of our region's most important natural resources and we need your help in protecting it.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or Christopher Curtis of our staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Timothy W. Brennan
Executive Director

TWB/KD/bs
Enclosure
0336L

Westfield River Greenway Plan

prepared by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

June 1986

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Westfield River Greenway Area

INTRODUCTION

This Executive Summary provides a "reader's digest" version, covering the key points of the Westfield River Greenway Plan. The principal aim of the Plan is river protection. In order to achieve this goal, the Plan recommends a comprehensive river management strategy, which includes scenic rivers designation, local zoning bylaws, voluntary conservation restrictions and land acquisition.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Environmental Management awarded a Greenway Grant to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) and the Westfield River Watershed Association (WRWA) in July of 1984. The grant has funded the development of a Greenway Plan for the East, Middle and Dead Branches of the Westfield River including the Main Stem into the City of Westfield . The study encompasses over 50 miles of river and drains an area of 517 square miles. The ten communities involved in the study area are: Cummington, Worthington, Middlefield, Chesterfield, Huntington, Westhampton, Chester, Russell, Montgomery and Westfield.

PVPC and WRWA have coordinated their efforts in the greenway planning project. Both agencies have provided financial and in-kind service donations to advance the project. PVPC staff coordinated the development of the plan and associated maps. WRWA members have been active participants in the plan development and will be instrumental in promoting and implementing the plan.

PROJECT ORGANIZATION

Public involvement is the key element in the successful completion of this project, and the eventual implementation of the Greenway Plan. Throughout the planning process, every effort was made to involve as many local officials and citizens as possible in directly contributing their suggestions for river protection. Meetings with Selectboards, a Public Opinion Meeting and several public events were held to solicit input. A newsletter, the Westfield River Current, a slide show, and a questionnaire increased participation in the project.

The Westfield River Greenway Advisory Committee was formed in October, 1984, to guide the development of the management plan for the river. The committee is comprised of representatives from each involved community, local businesses and sportsmen's interests. The committee met monthlyfor a year to discuss river resources and to address river protection issues. The Draft Greenway Plan was reviewed by the committee, and their suggestions are incorporated into the Final Greenway Plan.

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the Greenway Plan is protection of the Westfield River's unique attributes. The major areas of concern in developing protection techniques for the river are:

- to protect natural resources
- to improve recreational use and access
- to assess land use practices and controls
- to protect cultural resources

The Greenway Plan is based upon four main objectives. The first is to describe the physical and cultural attributes of the Westfield River basin. The second is to assess river resources through an inventory procedure and set forth issues of concern for these resources. The third is to present municipal and public priorities for river protection. The fourth is to recommend a series of actions which address the public needs for the river and can be realistically implemented.

PLANNING SETTING

The Planning Setting section of the report describes the river study segments by following the course of each branch studied. Physical characteristics including physiographic and geologic features, soils and vegetation, as well as the hydrology of the study area, are covered. The cultural setting is depicted through a historical inventory, population data, land use and water use characteristics.

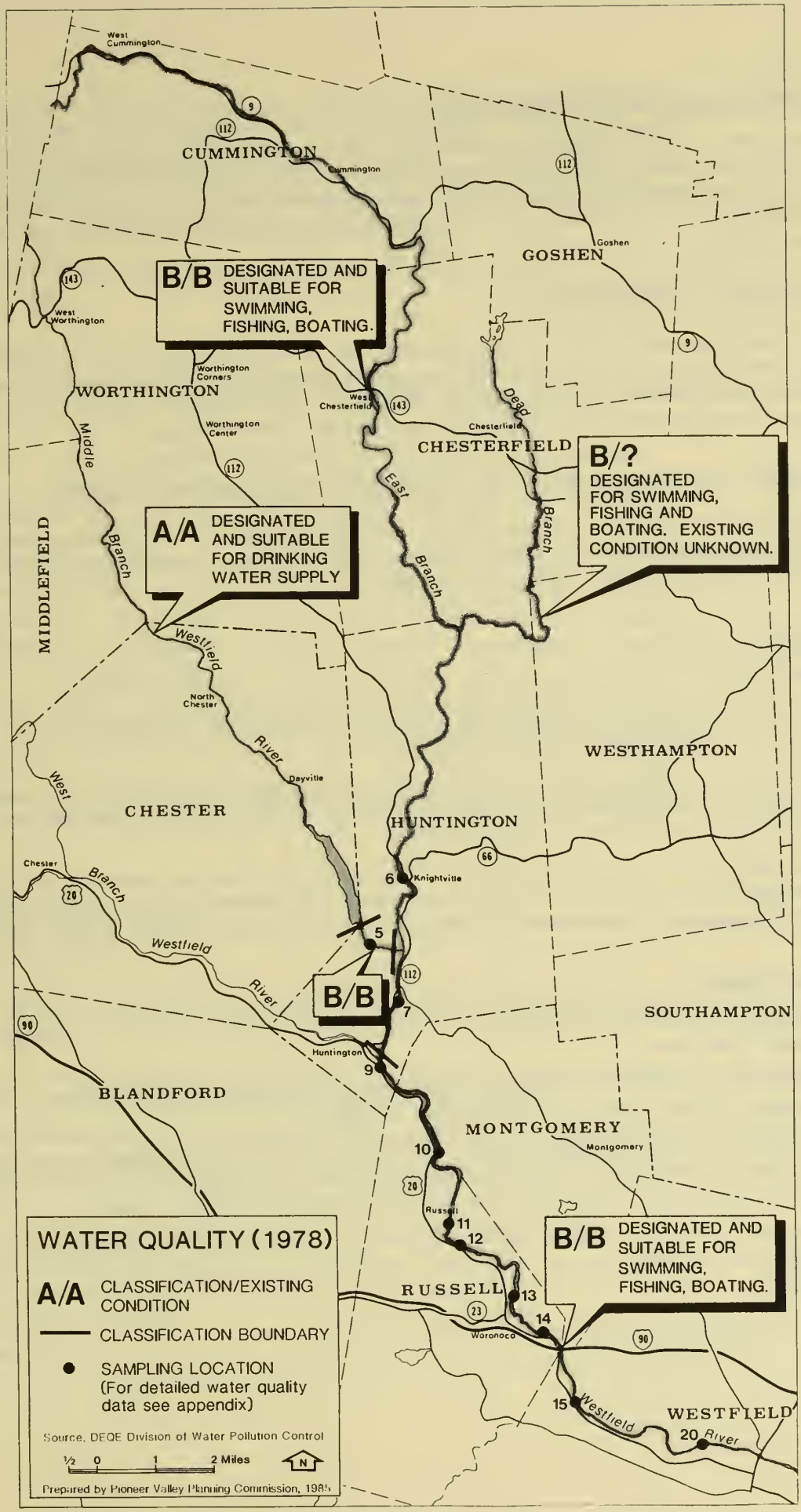
RIVER RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

An inventory of resources is a process that must precede any analysis or planning as it organizes the many complex characteristics that define an area. The inventory of the natural resources for the Westfield River basin concluded that the river valley contains some of the most scenic, unspoiled natural landscapes remaining in the Northeastern United States. The area is home to abundent wildlife, including several endangered species, and is a reknowned fall foliage paradise.

Recreational opportunities are unsurpassed consisting of camping, fishing, picnicking and swimming. Areas such as Glendale Falls and Chesterfield Gorge provide superb hiking and some of the best white water canoeing in Massachusetts is found along various branches of the river.

Historic resources range from early Native Indian sites to post-World War I structures and physically trace a history of development in the Westfield River Valley. An inventory of historical resources is recommended as well as preservation planning.

Land use topics are discussed as they relate to river issues and access to recreational and historical sites. Topics covered are forestry, agriculture, stream-bank stabilization/soil erosion, floodplain management, water quality and land use controls.


B/B DESIGNATED AND SUITABLE FOR SWIMMING, FISHING, BOATING.
A/A DESIGNATED AND SUITABLE FOR DRINKING WATER SUPPLY
B/? DESIGNATED FOR SWIMMING, FISHING AND BOATING. EXISTING CONDITION UNKNOWN.
B/B
B/B DESIGNATED AND SUITABLE FOR SWIMMING, FISHING, BOATING.
CUMMINGTON
GOSHEN
WORTHINGTON
CHESTERFIELD
MIDDLEFIELD
CHESTER
HUNTINGTON
WESTHAMPTON
SOUTHAMPTON
BLANDFORD
MONTGOMERY
RUSSELL
WESTFIELD
West Cummington
Cummington
Goshen
West Worthington
Worthington Corners
Worthington Center
West Chesterfield
Chesterfield
North Chester
Dayville
Chester
Knightville
Huntington
Montgomery
Russell
Woronoco
Middle Branch
East Branch
Dead Branch
Westfield River
West Branch Westfield River
6
5
7
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
20
WATER QUALITY (1978)
A/A CLASSIFICATION/EXISTING CONDITION
CLASSIFICATION BOUNDARY
SAMPLING LOCATION (For detailed water quality data see appendix)
Source: DEQE Division of Water Pollution Control
½ 0 1 2 Miles
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Prepared by Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 1985

MUNICIPAL and PUBLIC PRIORITIES

The concerns of each community involved in the study area are compiled in the plan. General public and landowner concerns are measured by analyzing the results of the Westfield River Attitudinal Questionnaire. Attitudes about river protection are assessed to determine key management issues for the Greenway Plan.

MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

Various land preservation techniques can be utilized to protect lands along a river. The Greenway Plan provides an overview of the following available management strategies: gifts and purchases by agreement of the landowner, regulatory and restrictive controls and scenic designation.

COMMUNITY BY COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following provides a community by community summary of recommended river protection management strategies for each of the ten communities in the Westfield River Greenway planning area.

Chester

- Establish a river protection zoning bylaw for Middle Branch.
- Work with property owners to encourage voluntary conservation restrictions along Middle Branch.
- Formalize hiking trail in and around the Chester Wildlife Management Area with assistance from Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and hiking organizations.
- Improve canoe access to Middle Branch through establishment of voluntary conservation easements or by working with Massachusetts Department of Environemtnal Management to acquire and maintain canoe access sites.

Chesterfield

- Establish state and federal Scenic Rivers designation for the East and Dead Branches.
- Work with property owners to encourage voluntary conservation restrictions along East and Dead Branches.
- Work with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, private property owners and hiking organizations to establish hiking trails along East and Dead Branches focusing on state-owned lands.
- Secure state or federal grant funds for open space or recreational land acquisition.

- Review camping regulations at Indian Hollow Campground to consider expansion of camping permits to family groups, canoe groups.
- Review and update existing river protection zoning bylaw.
- Work with logging companies to secure voluntary agreements to restrict cutting within 100 feet of the riverbank.
- Work with canoe groups to post warning signs at entrance to Chesterfield Gorge.

Cummington

- Establish state and federal Scenic Rivers designation for the East Branch.
- Establish a river protection zoning bylaw for East Branch.
- Work with farmers to encourage applications for Agricultural Preservation Restrictions of riverfront lands.
- Secure state or federal grant funds to improve town swimming areas.
- Improve canoe and fishing access to the East Branch through establishment of voluntary conservation easements or by working with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management to acquire and maintain access sites.
- Formalize hiking trails along East Branch, focusing on state-owned lands, by working with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, private property owners and hiking organizations.
- Work with property owners to encourage voluntary conservation restrictions along East Branch.

Huntington

- Establish state and federal Scenic Rivers designation for East Branch and Dead Branch.
- Work with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to expand existing picnic area below Knightville Dam to include swimming and other recreational activities.
- Work with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Managment to resolve parking, policing problems at Gardner State Park.
- Request assistance from Resource Conservation and Development District to improve streambank stabilization on East Branch above Huntington Center.
- Work to preserve historic mill sites along East Branch.
- Work with property owners to encourage voluntary conservation restrictions along East, Dead, Middle Branches.
- Secure state or federal grant funds to acquire lands for town open space and recreation.

Middlefield

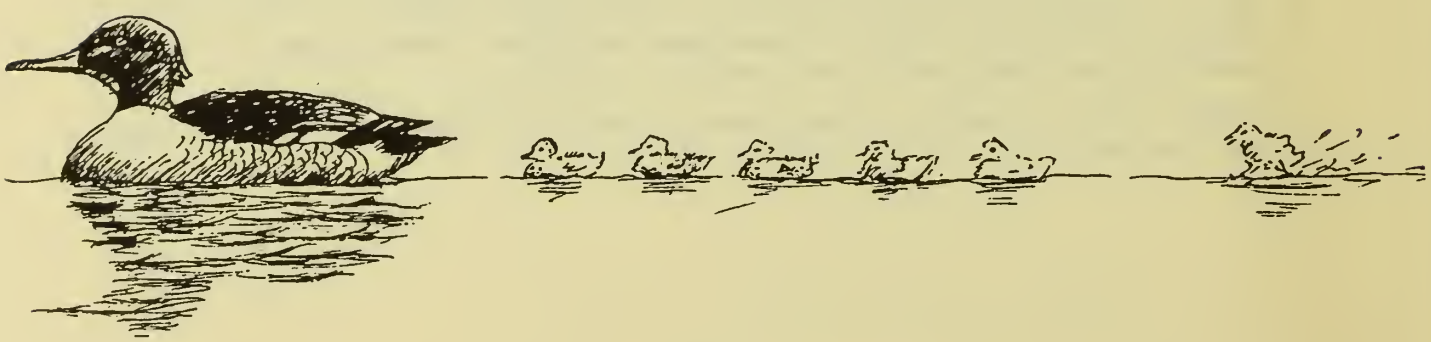
- Establish a river protection zoning bylaw for the Middle Branch.
- Improve canoe and fishing access to the Middle Branch through establishment of voluntary conservation easements or by working with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management to acquire and maintain access sites.
- Establish a hiking trail along the Middle Branch by working with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, private property owners and hiking organizations.
- Establish state and federal Scenic Rivers designation for the Middle Branch.
- Work with property owners to encourage voluntary conservation restrictions along Middle Branch.

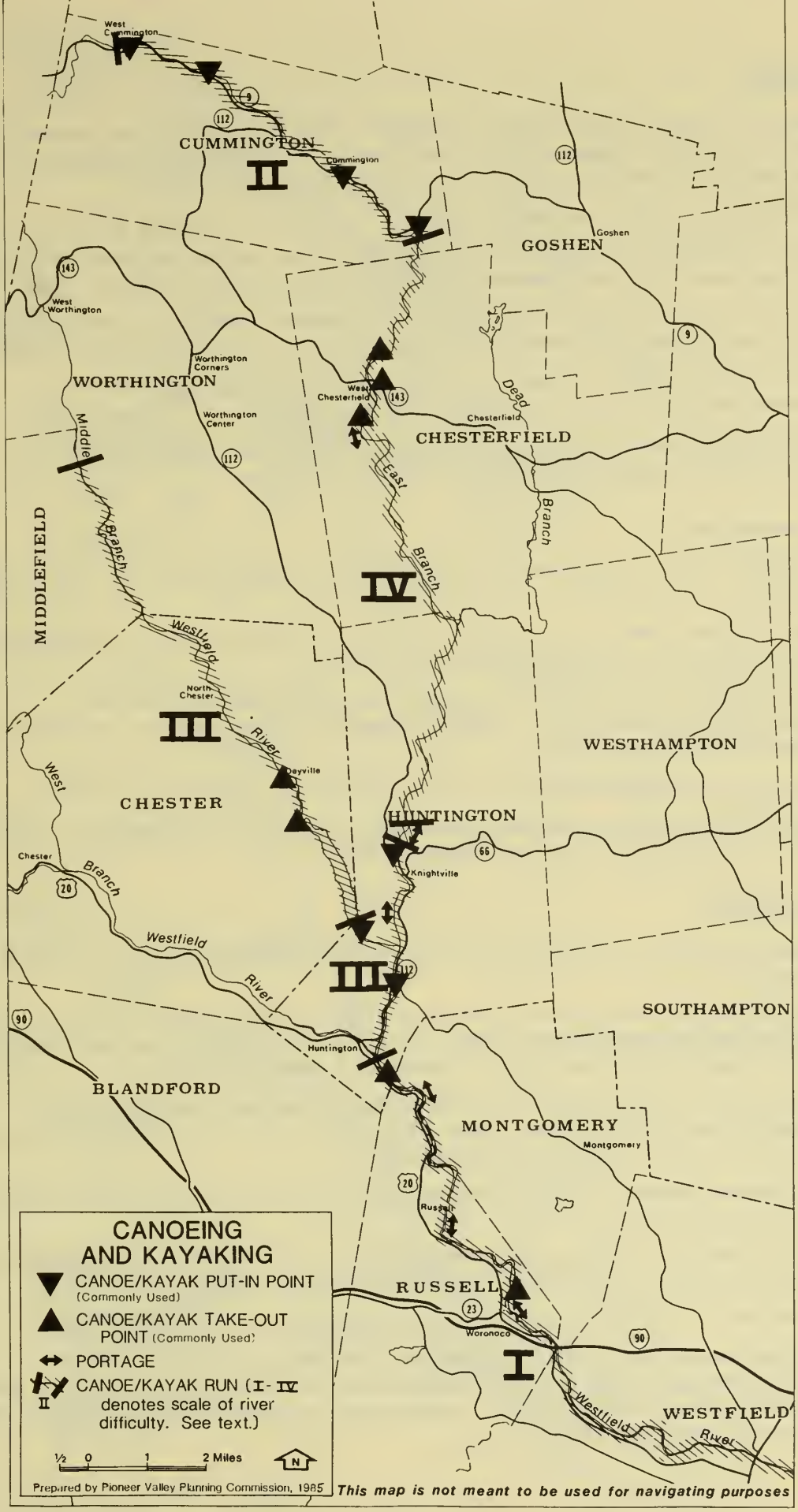
Montgomery

- Establish a river protection zoning bylaw for the Main Stem.
- Work with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, private property owners and hiking organizations to formalize a hiking trail for Shatterack and Tekoa Mountains.
- Work with property owners to encourage voluntary donations of conservation restrictions along the Main Stem.

Russell

- Work with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, private property owners and hiking organizations to formalize hiking trails on Turtle Bend Mountain, Shatterack Mountain and Tekoa Mountain.
- Establish a river protection zoning bylaw for the Main Stem.
- Work with canoe groups to post warning signs above the Crescent Mills and Woronoco dams.
- Secure state or federal grant funds to acquire lands for town open space or recreation areas at sites such as Bradley Brook Falls and Devil's Hole.
- Improve canoe and fishing access to the Main Stem along Route 20 through establishment of voluntary conservation easements, or by working with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management to acquire and maintain sites.
- Work with property owners to encourage voluntary donations of conservation restrictions along the Main Stem.




CUMMINGTON
GOSHEN
WORTHINGTON
CHESTERFIELD
MIDDLEFIELD
WESTHAMPTON
CHESTER
HUNTINGTON
SOUTHAMPTON
BLANDFORD
MONTGOMERY
RUSSELL
WESTFIELD
West Cummington
Cummington
Goshen
West Worthington
Worthington Corners
Worthington
West Chesterfield
Chesterfield
Worthington Center
Middle Branch
East Branch
Dead Branch
Westfield River
North Chester
Dayville
West Chester Branch
Knightville
Huntington
Montgomery
Russell
Woronoco
Westfield River
II
III
IV
I
9
112
143
20
66
90
23
CANOEING AND KAYAKING
CANOE/KAYAK PUT-IN POINT (Commonly Used)
CANOE/KAYAK TAKE-OUT POINT (Commonly Used)
PORTAGE
CANOE/KAYAK RUN (I- IV denotes scale of river difficulty. See text.)
½ 0 1 2 Miles
N
Prepared by Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 1985
This map is not meant to be used for navigating purposes

Westfield

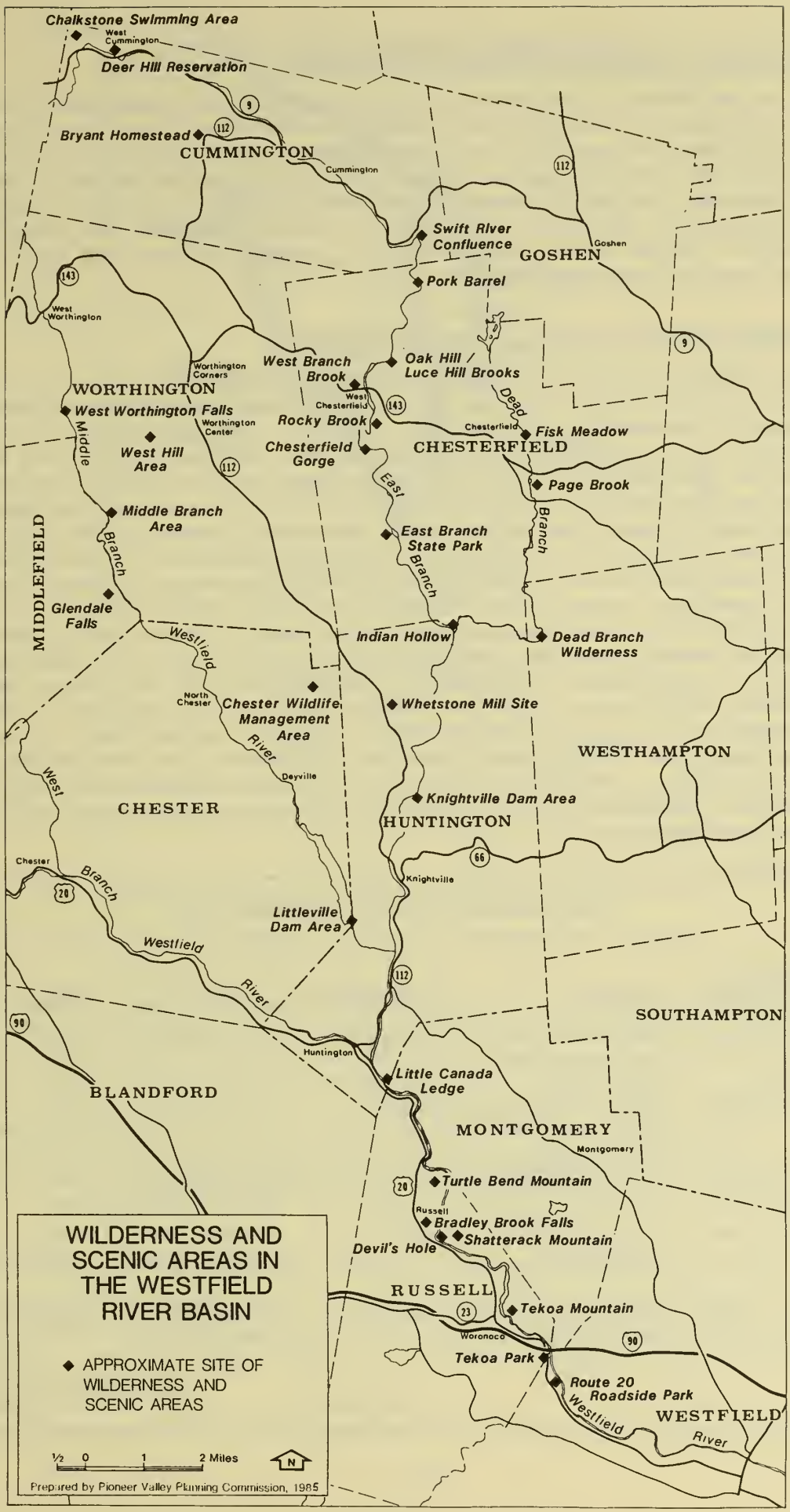
- Work with state agencies and property owners to establish canoe, fishing and picnicking access sites along Route 20 through voluntary conservation easements or land acquisition.
- Establish a river protection zoning bylaw for the Main Stem.
- Work with private property owners and hiking organizations to develop hiking trails at Tekoa Mountain and at Tekoa Country Club.
- Establish a wildlife sanctuary off Pochassic Road along the Main Stem, with assistance from Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.
- Work with property owners to encourage voluntary donations of conservation restrictions along the Main Stem.
- Work with farmers to encourage applications for Agricultural Preservation Restrictions on riverfront lands.

Westhampton

- Establish state and federal Scenic Rivers designation for the Dead Branch.
- Work property owners to encourage voluntary donations of conservation restrictions along Dead Branch.
- Work with private property owners, hiking organizations and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management to establish hiking access to the Dead Branch.
- Establish a river protection zoning bylaw for the Dead Branch.
- Work with logging companies to secure voluntary agreements to restrict cutting within 100 feet of the riverbank.

Worthington

- Establish state and federal Scenic Rivers designation for the Middle Branch.
- Work with private property owners, hiking organizations and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management to develop hiking trail loops along the Middle Branch and West Hill areas.
- Work with property owners to encourage voluntary donations of conservation restrictions along the Middle Branch, particularly in the wetland areas of northwest Worthington.
- Encourage farmers to apply for Agricultural Preservation Restriction for riverfront lands.
- Work toward voluntary conservation restrictions and/or easements for West Worthington Falls and South Worthington Falls.
- Establish a river protection zoning bylaw for the Middle Branch.
- Improve canoe and fishing access to the Middle Branch through establishment of voluntary conservation easements or by working with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management to acquire and maintain canoe access sites.


Chalkstone Swimming Area
West Cummington
Deer Hill Reservation
Bryant Homestead
CUMMINGTON
Cummington
Swift River Confluence
GOSHEN
Goshen
Pork Barrel
West Worthington
Worthington Corners
West Branch Brook
Oak Hill / Luce Hill Brooks
WORTHINGTON
West Worthington Falls
Worthington Center
Rocky Brook
West Chesterfield
Dead
Chesterfield
Fisk Meadow
Middle
West Hill Area
Chesterfield Gorge
CHESTERFIELD
East
Page Brook
Middle Branch Area
East Branch State Park
Branch
MIDDLEFIELD
Glendale Falls
Indian Hollow
Dead Branch Wilderness
Westfield
North Chester
Chester Wildlife Management Area
Whetstone Mill Site
River
WESTHAMPTON
Deyville
West
CHESTER
Knightville Dam Area
HUNTINGTON
Chester
Branch
Knightville
Littleville Dam Area
Westfield
River
SOUTHAMPTON
Huntington
Little Canada Ledge
BLANDFORD
MONTGOMERY
Montgomery
Turtle Bend Mountain
Russell
Bradley Brook Falls
Shatterack Mountain
Devil's Hole
RUSSELL
Tekoa Mountain
Woronoco
Tekoa Park
Route 20 Roadside Park
Westfield
River
WESTFIELD
WILDERNESS AND SCENIC AREAS IN THE WESTFIELD RIVER BASIN
APPROXIMATE SITE OF WILDERNESS AND SCENIC AREAS
½ 0 1 2 Miles
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Prepared by Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 1985

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR RIVER PROTECTION

In order to successfully implement a plan to protect the Westfield River's unique resources, it is crucial to establish priorities for actions to be taken by citizens and public officials to achieve that goal. The following action priorities are recommended based upon public participation in the planning process, including comments from town officials, the Westfield River Advisory Committee, riverfront landowners, river enthusiasts and other members of the public. These action priorities will provide a focus for future efforts to protect the Westfield River.

Action Priority One: Wild and Scenic Rivers Designation

The towns, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and Westfield River Watershed Association should actively pursue state and federal scenic rivers designation for appropriate segments of the Westfield River. Several segments of the East, Middle, Dead Branches and Main Stem of the Westfield River have been nominated for designation in both the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Program and the Massachusetts Scenic Rivers Program. Federal or state designation is the single most strongly supported river protection measure among local officials and residents. The first step in this process is to establish a "locally designated" State Scenic River, which is protected through local bylaws but receives priority consideration for state grant funds. To achieve designation, the plan must be endorsed by the Board of Selectmen in each participating community. The plan must also be endorsed by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management. The second major step would be the establishment of a "state-initiated" Federal Wild and Scenic River. This process requires that the state legislature declare the Westfield a scenic river, and that the Governor must apply to the Secretary of the Interior for federal designation. The primary benefit of federal designation would be the prohibition of federally-funded or permitted projects (i.e. dams, powerlines) within the designated area.

RIVER SEGMENTS PROPOSED FOR DESIGNATION

Westfield River Branch	Segment	Nominated By	Category	Miles
East Branch	West Cummington to Swift River	Federal	Recreational	7.5
East Branch	Swift River to West Chesterfield	State	Natural	4.0
East Branch	West Chesterfield to Knightville Dam	State	Scenic Natural Landscape	10.0
Middle Branch	West Worthington to Chester	State	Recreational Natural Landscape	11.0
Dead Branch	Chesterfield to East Branch	State	Recreational Natural Landscape	8.3
		TOTAL MILES		40.8 miles

PROPOSED FEDERAL AND STATE SCENIC RIVERS

Action Priority Two: Establish Local River Protection Bylaws

The towns of the Westfield River basin, with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and Westfield River Watershed Association, should work to develop and adopt local river protection zoning bylaws. Local zoning bylaws can effectively protect the wild and scenic characteristics of the Westfield River by prohibiting development (i.e. dams, dredging, filling) that would be inconsistent with the scenic qualities of the river. The bylaw can establish a protected river corridor 100-300 feet from riverbanks. Chesterfield has adopted a river protection bylaw which can serve as a model for other Westfield River communities. (See Appendix A.) Local bylaws are also a key management tool for the federal and state scenic rivers programs.

Action Priority Three: Promote Voluntary Conservation Restrictions

Local Conservation Commissions, with the Westfield River Watershed Association, should work actively with private property owners to encourage the voluntary donation of conservation restrictions and/or easements for riverfront properties.

In a conservation restriction, property owners would maintain their ownership of riverfront lands, but would voluntarily agree to keep their land in an open or natural state. In return, the donor would benefit from a reduction in real estate taxes and a deduction on income taxes for a charitable contribution. This agreement may be for a limited number of years or in perpetuity as specifically designated in the restriction. An important fact to remember about a conservation restriction is that the title of the property remains with its owner. Also, the public does not obtain any rights to enter upon restricted land unless specifically stated in the restriction.

If a property owner wishes to voluntarily allow the public to cross his land to reach the river, he or she may do so by donating a conservation easement. For instance, a property owner may wish to permit canoeists to take out canoes on his section of riverbank, or to participate as part of a regional trail system by allowing hikers to cross his land. Again, the property owner retains ownership of the land, while allowing specified public access.

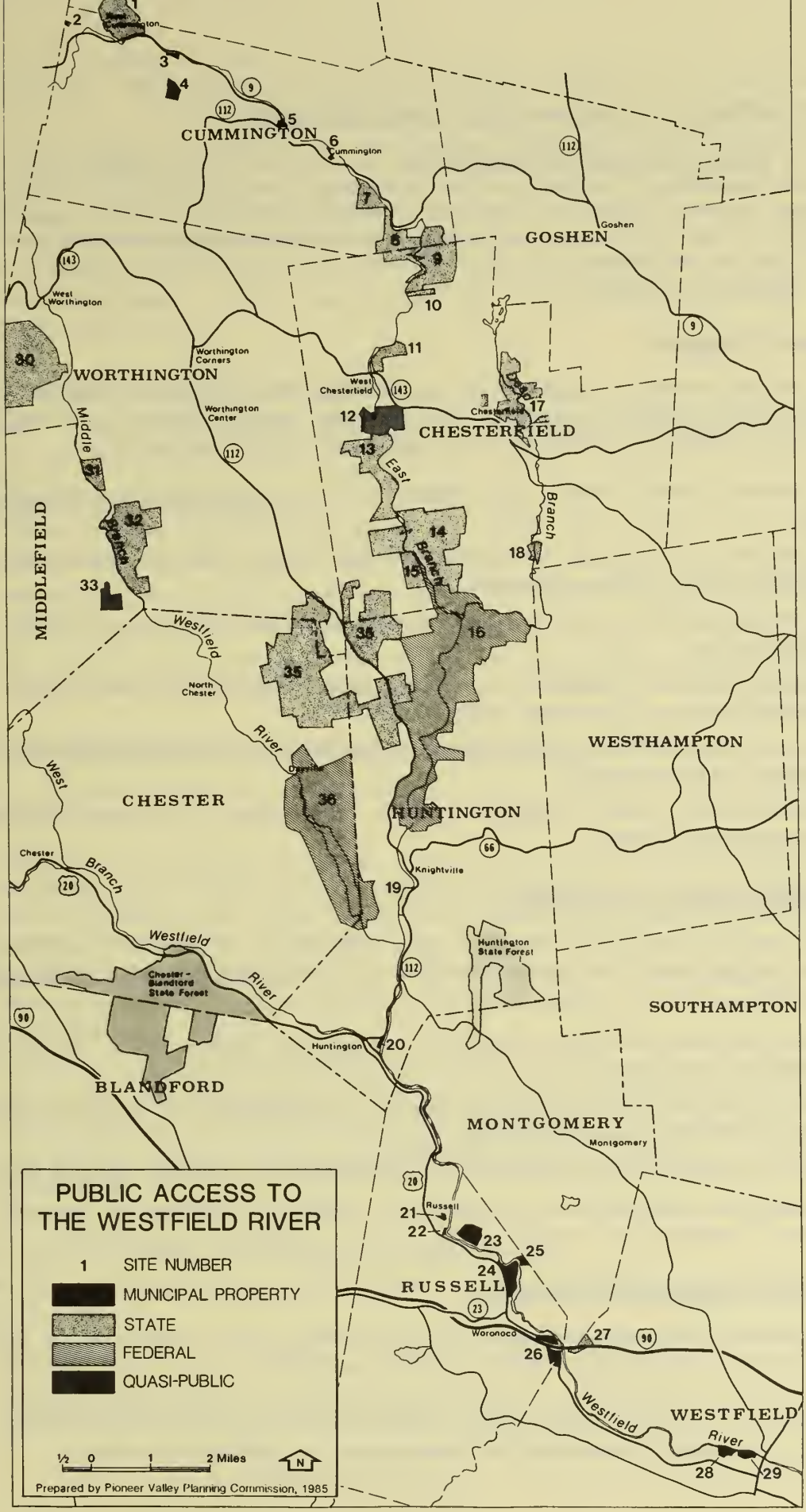
Action Priority Four: Develop Regional Hiking Trail

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, hiking organizations and town officials should work together to develop a regional hiking trail for the Westfield River. A regional hiking trail would provide improved public access and enjoyment of the Westfield, and of many state-owned lands which are now relativley inaccessible. The trail should be organized, well-marked and maintained, using state-owned forests and wildlife management areas as focal points. Trail access points should be restricted to prohibit vehicular access.

The trail should be designed utilizing the expertise of state agency officials, the many organized hiking clubs (i.e. Appalachian Mountain club, Springfield Explorers Club), and local residents. In many areas, the trail layout could follow old abandoned roads or native trails which exist throughout the basin. An important component in successfully establishing a regional trail system will be working with private property owners to encourage the donation of conservation easements for lands which form critical links in the trail system. Educating property owners about real estate tax reduction benefits and liability protection afforded to them under state law should aid in this process.

Action Priority Five: Secure Grant Funds for Selected Land Acquisitions or Improvements

Community officials should apply for available state and federal grant funds to help finance selected land acquisitions or improvements. Several communities have indicated a desire to preserve open space or improve public access to the Westfield River. For example, the City of Westfield would like to establish a wildlife sanctuary and the Town of Cummington would like to improve parking and facilities at a town swimming area. Several grant programs are available to assist communities in financing open space and recreation projects, including the Massachusetts Self-Help Program, the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Massachusetts Scenic Rivers program. If formal designation of the Westfield as a state scenic river is achieved, it would receive priority status in the allocation of funds for many state and federal open space grant programs.


CUMMINGTON
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BLANDFORD
MONTGOMERY
RUSSELL
WESTFIELD
West Worthington
Worthington Corners
Worthington Center
West Chesterfield
North Chester
Knightville
Huntington State Forest
Chester - Blandford State Forest
Woronoco
Middle
East
Branch
Westfield
River
PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE WESTFIELD RIVER
1 SITE NUMBER
MUNICIPAL PROPERTY
STATE
FEDERAL
QUASI-PUBLIC
½ 0 1 2 Miles
N
Prepared by Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 1985

ROLES OF AGENCIES, MUNICIPALITIES, ORGANIZATIONS

Putting the Westfield River Greenway Plan into action will require the cooperative, coordinated efforts of many community officials, local residents and property owners, state and regional officials and non-profit conservation organizations. Each of these individuals and organizations provides an important link in achieving the goal of river protection. The roles of each group are summarized below:

Municipalities / Residents

The Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Planning Board and other interested town boards or residents should serve as key actors in protecting the Westfield River and insuring that local priorities are met:

- All boards should review and comment on the Westfield River Greenway Plan.
- The Board of Selectmen should review and endorse the proposed state and federal Scenic Rivers designation.
- The Planning Board should develop and establish a river protection zoning bylaw.
- The Conservation Commission should promote voluntary conservation restrictions on riverfront properties.
- Town officials should assist state agencies in the development of a regional hiking trail.
- Town officials should apply for funds to purchase or improve open space or recreation lands.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

PVPC staff should work with town and state officials to provide technical assistance in implementing recommendations of the Westfield River Greenway Plan.

- Work with town and state officials to achieve formal state and federal Scenic Rivers designation.
- Provide assistance to Planning Boards in designing and adopting local river protection zoning bylaws.
- Assist state and town officials in designing a regional hiking trail.
- Assist town officials in applying for funds to purchase or improve open space or recreation lands.

Westfield River Watershed Association

Watershed Association members should work actively, both individually and as an organization, to support river protection efforts:

- Support and lobby for state and federal Scenic Rivers designation.
- Work with local Conservation Commissions to promote voluntary conservation restrictions on riverfront properties .

- Work to secure a private foundation grant or other financial assistance to hire a staff person to provide technical expertise to towns on river protection techniques.
- Actively support local river protection efforts, such as zoning bylaws, land acquisition.
- Work to secure a private foundation grant or other financial assistance to hire a staff person to provide technical expertise to towns on river protection techniques.
- Actively support local river protection efforts, such as zoning bylaws, land acquisition.

Other Conservation / Hiking Organizations

Organized hiking, canoeing and conservation organizations should provide their expertise and knowledge of the river basin to river protection efforts, inlcuding:

- Hiking groups should assist state and local officials in the design, layout and construction of hiking trails.
- Canoeing groups should work with town officials to post warning signs above dams and dangerous river sections.
- All conservation groups should lobby for and support state and federal Scenic Rivers designation and other local river protection efforts.

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM)

DEM staff assistance at all levels will be very important in protecting the Westfield River:

- DEM Scenic Rivers staff should assist in securing the endorsement of the Massachusetts Board of Environmental Management, the State Legislature, and the Governor in order to achieve formal state and federal Scenic Rivers designation.
- The DEM regional office should take a lead role in the design, development and maintenance of a regional hiking trail providing access to state-owned lands.
- DEM staff should give priority status to land acquisition or improvement grant requests from municipalities within the Westfield River area.
- DEM should work to provide improved maintenance and facilities on state-owned lands, such as improved parking and policing at Gardner State Park.

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW)

DFW should utilize its available resources to help promote protection of the Westfield River:

- Support efforts to achieve state and federal Scenic Rivers designation.
- Assist DEM in the design and construction of a regional hiking trail system, providing improved access to DFW lands.